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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/726,648	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM, JONG-TAK
	<b>Examiner</b> UMAR CHEEMA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 February 2008.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-37 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-37 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. This action is response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 29 February 2008. Claims 1-21, and 23-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1 has been amended. Claim 22 is being cancelled.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 and 23-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. **Claims 1-7**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al. (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Kuthyar et al. (Kuthyar) (US Patent # 5,768,513) further in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899) and further in view of Takahashi et al (Takahashi) (US Patent # 5,819,261).

**Regarding claim 1**, Neely substantially discloses the invention as claimed a method comprising: receiving a multimedia message (see par. 005; receiving the multimedia data); setting an index value of the multimedia message indicative of (see pg. 8, par. 0081; values of the index field) whether the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message; storing the multimedia message in a storage device with the set index value; receiving data from a user agent; searching the storage device for the multimedia message; the search performed based on a comparison of the received data and the index value set in the stored multimedia message; and forwarding the multimedia message produced by the search to the user agent.

Neely discloses substantially the invention as claimed above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message; storing the multimedia message in a storage device with the set index value; receiving data from a user agent; searching the storage device for the multimedia message; the search performed based on a comparison of the received data and the index value set in the stored multimedia message and forwarding the multimedia message produced by the search to the user agent.

In the same field of invention, Barrus, Kuthyar and Takahashi disclose wherein said whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message (see Barrus: col. 24, lines 35-46, 52-58); storing the multimedia message in a storage device with the set index value; receiving data from a user agent (see Barrus: col. 4, lines 1-10; figures 12-13); searching the storage device for the multimedia message; the search performed based on a comparison of the received data and the index value set in the stored multimedia message (see Takahashi: abstract, col. figure 14 a-c; col. 18, lines 56-64); and forwarding the multimedia message based on the set index value (see Kuthyar: pg. 5, lines 20-25).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills person in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Neely, Barrus, Kuthyar and Takahashi for a method comprising setting an index value of a multimedia message and forward the message based on the set index value. Motivation for doing so would have been that it provides an improved multimedia messaging service capabilities (see Kuthyar: pg. 1, lines 58-60).

**Regarding claim 2**, Neely discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the index value is set in a header of the multimedia message (see pg. 4, par. 0043, fig. 1).

**Regarding claim 3**, Neely discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the index value comprises a predetermined bit in order to discriminate the multimedia message from

other multimedia messages (see pg. 8, par. 0081).

**Regarding claim 4**, Neely discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the index value is set as a value corresponding to other than '0' by a multimedia messaging service server (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 5**, Neely discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the index value is set as a value corresponding to '0' when contents of the multimedia message change (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 6**, Neely discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the index value is set as a value corresponding to '0' when the multimedia message is deleted from a mailbox (see fig. 8, pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 7**, the combination of Neely and Kuthyar disclose the method of claim 1, wherein forwarding the multimedia message comprises forwarding the multimedia message from a server to a user agent (see Neely: pg. 2, par. 0012; see Kuthyar: pg. 5, lines 20-25).

**Claims 8-37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899).

**Regarding claim 8**, Neely discloses a method comprising: transmitting header information of a multimedia message from a user agent to a server (see pg. 1, par. 0005, pg. 2, par. 0012); and determining an index value of the transmitted header information (see pg. 8, par. 0081, pg. 10, par. 0097), wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message. Neely discloses substantially the invention as claimed above however does not explicitly disclose wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message. However in the same field of invention Barrus discloses wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message (see col. 24, lines 35-46, 52-58). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill person in the art of networking to combine the teaching of Neely and Barrus for a method comprising setting an index value of a multimedia message and forward the message based on the set index value. Motivation for doing so would have been because it this functionality extends the usefulness of the multimedia message system's capabilities (see Barrus: col. 2, lines 49-52).

**Regarding claim 9**, Neely discloses the method of claim 8, further comprising retrieving a multimedia message having a same index value in a mailbox (see pg. 6, 0060, pg. 7, par. 0075).

**Regarding claim 10**, Neely discloses the method of claim 9, further comprising inserting information of a receiving side in the retrieved multimedia message (see pg. 6, par. 0060, 0067).

**Regarding claim 11**, Neely discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising transmitting the multimedia message to a user agent on the receiving side (see pg. 11, par. 0108).

**Claim 12**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899), and further in view of Kuthyar et al. (Kuthyar) (US Patent # 5,768,513).

**Regarding claim 12**, Neely and Barrus substantially disclose the limitations of claim 8 for the above reason, however do not explicitly disclose wherein said the method of claim 10, wherein the information of the receiving side comprises one of a telephone number and an address of the receiving side. However in the same field of invention, Kuthyar discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the information of the receiving side comprises one of a telephone number and an address of the receiving side (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 7-23). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Neely, Barrus, and Kuthyar for receiving information where information contains telephone number and an address of the receiving side. Motivation for doing so would have been

that it provides an improved multimedia messaging service capabilities (see Kuthyar: pg. 1, lines 58-60).

**Regarding claim 13**, Neely discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the index value predetermined bit to discriminate among multimedia messages (see pg. 8, par. 0081).

**Regarding claim 14**, Neely discloses the method of claim 8, further comprising a multimedia server setting the index value to correspond to a value other than '0' (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 15**, Neely discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the index value is set to correspond to '0' when contents of the multimedia message changes (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 16**, Neely discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the index value is set to correspond to '0' when the multimedia message is deleted from a mailbox (see fig. 8, pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 17**, Neely discloses the method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting the multimedia message (see pg. 1, par. 0005, pg. 2, par. 0012) when the index value corresponds to '0' (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070).

**Regarding claim 18**, Neely discloses the method of claim 8, where wherein the multimedia message stored in a mailbox has a predetermined storage time set by a multimedia user agent (see pg. 1, par. 0008, pg. 12-13, par. 0124).

**Regarding claim 19**, Neely discloses the method of claim 18, further comprising automatically deleting the multimedia message stored in the mailbox when the set storing time elapses (see pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 12-13, par. 0124).

**Regarding claim 20**, Neely substantially discloses the invention as claimed a multimedia communication method comprising: receiving a header information of a multimedia message (see pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 4, par. 0043), wherein the header information includes an index value that indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message; and determining how to communicate a multimedia message based on the received header information (see pg. 10, par. 0097).

Neely discloses substantially the invention as claimed above however does not explicitly disclose wherein the header information includes an index value that indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message.

In the same field of invention Barrus discloses wherein said the header information includes an index value that indicates whether the multimedia is a new

multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message (see col. 24, lines 35-46, 52-58).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill person in the art of networking at the time of invention to combine the teaching of Neely and Barrus for a method comprising setting an index value of a multimedia message and forward the message based on the set index value. Motivation for doing so would have been because it this functionality extends the usefulness of the multimedia message system's capabilities (see Barrus: col. 2, lines 49-52).

**Regarding claim 21**, Neely discloses the method of claim 20, wherein determining how to communicate comprises determining an index value of the multimedia message (see pg. 8, par. 0081).

**Regarding claim 22**, (Cancelled).

**Claim 23**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899), and further in view of Kuthyar et al. (Kuthyar) (US Patent # 5,768,513).

**Regarding claim 23** Neely and Barrus substantially disclose the limitations of claim 20 for the above reason, however do not explicitly disclose wherein said the method of claim 21, further comprising forwarding the multimedia message from a first user agent

to a second user agent based on the determined index value. However in the same field of invention, Kuthyar discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising forwarding the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the determined index value (see pg. 5, lines 20-25). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Neely, Barrus and Kuthyar for forwarding the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the determined index value.

Motivation for doing so would have been that it provides an improved multimedia messaging service capabilities (see Kuthyar: pg. 1, lines 58-60).

**Regarding claim 24**, Neely discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising retrieving a multimedia message having a similar index value from a memory based on the determined index value (see pg. 7, par. 0075-0076).

**Regarding claim 25**, Neely discloses the method of claim 24, further comprising associating identification information of a receiving side with the retrieved multimedia message (see pg. 10, par. 0096, pg. 12, par. 0114).

**Regarding claim 26**, Neely substantially discloses the invention as claimed a server comprising: a receiving device to receive at least an index value of a multimedia message (see pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 4, par. 0043); a processor to select information to transmit based on the index value (see pg. 8, col. 0079), wherein the index value

indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message; and a transmitting device to transmit at least the selected information (see pg. 8, par. 0081, pg. 10, par. 0097).

Neely discloses substantially the invention as claimed above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said the index value indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message.

In the same field of invention Barrus discloses wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message (see col. 24, lines 35-46, 52-58).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill person in the art of networking at the time of this invention to combine the teaching of Neely and Barrus for a method comprising setting an index value of a multimedia message and forward the message based on the set index value. Motivation for doing so would have been because it this functionality extends the usefulness of the multimedia message system's capabilities (see Barrus: col. 2, lines 49-52).

**Regarding claim 27**, Neely discloses the server of claim 26, wherein the index value is provided in a header of the multimedia message (see pg. 4, par. 0043, fig. 1).

**Regarding claim 28**, Neely discloses the server of claim 26, wherein the index value comprises a predetermined bit in order to discriminate the multimedia message from

other multimedia messages (see pg. 8, par. 0081).

**Regarding claim 29**, Neely discloses the server of claim 26, wherein the processor sets the index value to correspond to '0' when contents of the multimedia message change (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 30**, Neely discloses the server of claim 26, wherein the processor sets the index value to correspond to '0' when the multimedia message is deleted from a mailbox (see fig. 8, pg. 9, par. 0087, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Claim 31**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899), and further in view of Kuthyar et al. (Kuthyar) (US Patent # 5,768,513).

**Regarding claim 31**, Neely and Barrus substantially disclose the limitations of claim 26 for the above reason, however do not explicitly disclose wherein said the method of claim 26, wherein the processor decides to forward the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the received index value. However in the same field of invention, Kuthyar discloses the method of claim 26, wherein the processor decides to forward the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the received index value (see pg. 5, lines 20-25).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking

at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Neely, Barrus, and Kuthyar for forwarding the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the determined index value. Motivation for doing so would have been that it provides an improved multimedia messaging service capabilities (see Kuthyar: pg. 1, lines 58-60).

**Regarding claim 32**, Neely discloses the server of claim 26, wherein the processor decides to retrieve a multimedia message having a similar index value from a memory based on the determined index value (see pg. 7, par. 0075-0076).

**Regarding claim 33**, Neely substantially discloses the invention as claimed a method for processing a multimedia message comprising: transmitting one of (a) the multimedia message including the index value in the header of the multimedia message (see pg. 4, par. 0043, fig. 1), wherein the index value indicates that the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a changed multimedia message from a previously sent multimedia message and (b) only the header of the multimedia message, wherein the index value of header indicates the multimedia message was a previously sent multimedia message, which has not changed (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039); and receiving one of the header and the multimedia message (see pg. 10, par. 0096, pg. 12, par. 0114), wherein when only the header is received, retrieving a stored multimedia message having the same index value as the received header (see pg. 7, par. 0075-0076).

Neely discloses substantially the invention as claimed above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said the index value indicates that the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a changed multimedia message from a previously sent multimedia message.

In the same field of invention Barrus discloses wherein said the index value indicates that the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a changed multimedia message from a previously sent multimedia message (see col. 24, lines 35-46, 52-58).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills person in the art of networking at the time of this invention to combine the teaching of Neely and Barrus for a method comprising setting an index value of a multimedia message and forward the message based on the set index value. Motivation for doing so would have been because it this functionality extends the usefulness of the multimedia message system's capabilities (see Barrus: col. 2, lines 49-52).

**Regarding claim 34**, Neely discloses the method of claim 33, wherein the index value is set as a '0' when the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or the changed multimedia message (see pg. 6-7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 35**, Neely discloses the method of claim 33, wherein the index value is set other than '0' to discriminate among multimedia messages when the multimedia message is the previously sent multimedia message, which has not changed (see pg. 6-

7, par. 0070, pg. 3, par. 0039).

**Regarding claim 36**, Neely discloses the method of claim 35, wherein the index value includes a predetermined bit to discriminate among multimedia messages (see pg. 8, par. 0081).

**Claim 37**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, III et al (Neely) (US 2004/0139157 A1) in view of Barrus et al. (Barrus) (US Patent # 6,784,899), and further in view of Kuthyar et al. (Kuthyar) (US Patent # 5,768,513).

**Regarding claim 37**, the combination of Neely and Kuthyar disclose the method of claim 33, forwarding the retrieved multimedia message or forwarding the received multimedia message (see Kuthyar: pg. 5, lines 20-25, Neely, pg. 2, par. 0012). Neely and Barrus substantially disclose the limitations of claim 33 for the above reason, however do not explicitly disclose wherein said the method of claim 33, forwarding the retrieved multimedia message or forwarding the received multimedia message. However in the same field of invention, Kuthyar discloses the method of claim 33, forwarding the retrieved multimedia message or forwarding the received multimedia message (see Kuthyar: pg. 5, lines 20-25, Neely: pg. 2, par. 0012). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Neely, Barrus, and Kuthyar for forwarding the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the

determined index value. Motivation for doing so would have been that it provides an improved multimedia messaging service capabilities (see Kuthyar: pg. 1, lines 58-60).

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please refer to form PTO-892 (Notice of Cited Reference) for a list of more relevant prior arts.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to UMAR CHEEMA whose telephone number is (571)270-3037. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Jr. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Uc  
/William C. Vaughn, Jr./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144